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NEWS RELEASE

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City of Everton Receives Grant for Early Storm Warning Siren



Vickie Umfleet, Rural Development Specialist in Area 5, USDA Rural Development presented a Mock Check in the amount of \$8,175 to the City of Everton during a celebration on June 15, 2004, held at the City Hall. Grant funds were targeted to purchase an early storm warning siren benefiting 325 residents and businesses in the Everton area.

Umfleet said, "Those of us who lived in this area in May 2003, remember the devastating tornados that stormed through the Southwest corner of Missouri. An early storm warning siren is one of the first precautionary measures a community can utilize for the protection of their citizens. It is heart warming to know federal tax dollars are being returned to the area to provide such an important safeguard to those in and around Tornado Alley".

Mayor Joe L. Little, Sr., expressed his appreciation, "As Mayor of Everton, it gives me great pleasure to accept this Community Facility (CF) Grant from Rural Development (RD) for this new storm siren. I would like to thank Senator Bond, Senator Talent, and Representative Ike Skelton in providing the necessary funds for RD's CF Grant program. I would like to thank the Board of Alderman and the President of the Board, Ed Taylor, for pursuing this grant for our new storm siren. I also wish to thank our community for their support".



Greg Branum, Missouri State Director for USDA Rural Development said, "U.S. Senators "Kit" Bond and Jim Talent and U.S. Representative Ike Skelton have been, and continue to be, strong proponents for the necessary funding for essential services for rural Missourians by making available federal funds for these kinds of rural projects." "The agency's mission mirrors President Bush's initiative of being committed to the future of rural communities."

Anyone seeking more information about this or any other USDA Rural Development program may visit the homepage at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/mo/> or by contacting Vickie Umfleet, Rural Development Specialist, at 688 S State Highway B, Suite 400, Springfield MO, 65802 or by calling (417) 831-5246 extension 5 or by email to vickie.umfleet@mo.usda.gov.

